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## Fitchburg Celebrates Energy Efficiency Day, October 5

<https://www.fitchburgwi.gov/DocumentCenter/View/24081/Proclamation-Energy-Efficiency-Day-2022>

Last week Mayor Richardson announced a proclamation recognizing October 5, 2022 as Energy Efficiency Day throughout Fitchburg. Since 2016, Energy Efficiency Day has been observed the first Wednesday in October, with an increasing number of governments and organizations joining in every year. This is the second year Fitchburg has observed Energy Efficiency Day, joining the State of Wisconsin and Dane County as well as neighboring municipalities in the observance.



Fitchburg has highlighted the importance of energy efficiency by including the practice as a key component of the [2019 Clean Energy Resolution](#), as well as pursuing various energy efficiency improvements throughout municipal buildings and operations. Home and business owners can pursue energy efficiency improvements as well, taking steps to both decrease carbon emissions and save money through efficiency improvements that decrease the energy required to perform the same tasks.



Wisconsin residents can take advantage of energy efficiency and renewable energy rebates through [Focus on Energy](#), the state’s energy efficiency program. Look for both post-install rebates on larger equipment and instant discounts on products found online or at local retailers.

Click the image at right or [this link](#) to read the proclamation in full, and learn more about the observance on <https://energyefficiencyday.org>.



## Nine Fitchburg Businesses Recognized as Bicycle-Friendly

<https://bikeleague.org/content/48-companies-awarded-league-american-bicyclists-bicycle-friendly-business-status>



The City of Fitchburg prides itself on being a regional cycling destination, with access to five different regional and state trails, two sets of single-track mountain biking trails, three bike-and-pedestrian overpasses across busy roads, myriad connections to Madison and other neighboring communities, and over 50 miles of shared-use paths and on-street bike lanes.



Since 2012, Fitchburg has been recognized as a [Bicycle-Friendly Community](#) by the League of American Bicyclists, initially recongized at the “Bronze” level and renewed at “Silver” in both 2015 and 2019. Three Fitchburg businesses have also been previously recognized as Bicycle-Friendly Businesses: Fitchburg Family Pharmacy, Griessmeyer Law, and Raceday Events.

This Fall, nine more businesses located in Fitchburg were added to the list, a total that equaled the highest number of applicants receiving a new or renewed recognition in any other state! Congratulations to the following Fitchburg-based businesses on their awards:

Platinum: Wheel & Sprocket

Silver: Adesys; Fitchburg Chamber Visitor + Business Bureau; KL Engineering, Inc.

Bronze: Boys and Girls Club of Dane County; Delta Beer Lab; Oasis Café; Saris; Shine Technologies LLC

## Dyslexia Awareness Ride Coming to Fitchburg

<https://madison365.com/dr-shawn-robinson-set-to-embark-on-135-mile-bike-ride-to-raise-funds-for-and-awareness-of-dyslexia/>

*For the third year, the annual Dyslexia Awareness Ride will promote dyslexia awareness while raising money for the Children’s Dyslexia Center here in Madison. This year’s event, a bike ride from Oshkosh to Fitchburg, will take place on Friday, Oct. 7.*

*Dr. Shawn Robinson, a literacy educator, author, and advocate, is getting set to embark on a 135-mile journey from Oshkosh to Fitchburg. Robinson is partnering up with Wheel & Sprocket, a full-service local bike shop with 12 locations throughout Wisconsin.*

*“We really want to build community and raise awareness about dyslexia, particularly in the state of Wisconsin. We’re trying to do some good and to give kids hope and let them people see us doing something positive.”*

Meet up with Dr. Robinson at Wheel & Sprocket on Cahill Main at Fitchburg’s Hatchery Hill Center, as he finishes his ~120-mile ride between 3-4pm on Friday, October 7, and look to the story shared above for a link to donate to his effort.



## Alternative Fuel Corridors in Wisconsin

<https://wisconsin.gov/Pages/projects/data-plan/plan-res/alt-fuels.aspx>

The 2015 Alternative Fuel Corridor Designation Program and 2021 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law established a network of transit corridors across the nation that provide fuel/charging resources for vehicles that use alternative fuels such as electricity, hydrogen fuel cells, propane, and natural gas. In Dane County, I-39/I-90, I-94, and Highway 151 have been established as “ready” or “pending” corridors for one or more of these alternative fuels. Click the link above or the map at left for more information on Wisconsin’s alternative fuels corridors that will help support reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

## Celebrate Gargantuan Grizzlies During “Fat Bear Week”

<https://explore.org/fat-bear-week>

Join thousands of ursine enthusiasts over the next week as Katmai National Park celebrates their resident brown bears readying for hibernation with the annual “Fat Bear Week” competition. Members of the public are invited to vote for the bear they think has best equipped itself to survive the long, cold, upcoming Alaska winter, bringing a little levity to the Park’s educational efforts and raising national awareness about both Katmai and brown bears and their habitats more broadly.



## Senate Ratifies Kigali Amendment

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/09/21/climate/hydrofluorocarbons-hfcs-kigali-amendment.html>

The environmental movement as we know it today is often traced back to the latter half of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, with such notable markers as the 1962 publication of Rachel Carson's Silent Spring, Wisconsin Governor Gaylord Nelson's founding of Earth Day in 1970, and the worldwide attention given to a growing hole in the Earth's ozone layer in the 1980s. That ozone hole sparked a wave of global action nearly unmatched in prior human history, seeking to eliminate the use of CFCs (chlorofluorocarbons) and other ozone-depleting refrigerants.

A group of chemicals commonly used in place of those CFCs, hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) saw expanded use following the international adoption of the *Montreal Protocol* that phased out CFCs and other ozone-depleting refrigerants beginning in 1989. However, despite having little impact on the ozone layer, HFCs still contribute significantly to global warming, with heat-trapping potential that can be thousands of times greater than that of carbon dioxide.

In 2016, the international community drafted the *Kigali Amendment* to the Montreal Protocol, seeking to limit the use of HFCs over the coming decades as part of the global effort to combat the climate crisis. Environmental groups are now celebrating the U.S. Senate's ratification of this Kigali Amendment (which entered into force in 2019), entering the United States into this international treaty and ensuring that one of the world's largest historical contributors to global warming will join the effort to limit further use of this potent greenhouse gas. While the United States had already taken steps to reduce HFCs in recent years, joining the Kigali Amendment is still a significant step, both symbolically and concretely, in further strengthening this latest international effort to develop cleaner refrigerants and other industrial chemicals.

Read more about the Kigali Amendment and the United States' efforts to manufacture cleaner replacements on [Inside Climate News](#), [NOAA Research News](#), and [NPR](#).

## Shred/Recycling Event October 15

<https://www.fitchburgwi.gov/2717/Recycling-Day-Event>

Do you have sensitive documents in need of shredding? Old electronics that could be recycled instead of thrown away? Come to the Fitchburg Civic Campus Saturday, October 15 from 8:00—11:00am for the Fall Shred and Recycling Event. Pellitteri Waste Systems and Resource Solutions will have trucks and staff on hand to help Fitchburg residents recycle confidential papers and select electronics. This is also a great opportunity to bring expired and unused medications to City Hall for safe disposal in the Police Department's Med Drop box.

Check out the City's Recycling-Day page ([linked here](#)) for information and updates on the event. We look forward to seeing you later this month!

## October-November Observances



### Share the News

Tell your friends to subscribe to Green Fitchburg on the city website  
<http://www.fitchburgwi.gov/list.aspx> > Green Fitchburg

- a. Visit Fitchburg’s “Notify Me®” web page:  
<http://www.fitchburgwi.gov/list.aspx>
- b. Type your email address in the box and select “Sign In”
- c. To receive text messages enter your phone number and select “Save”
- d. Click  (to subscribe/unsubscribe to emails) and/or  (to subscribe/unsubscribe) next to the lists to which you wish to subscribe / unsubscribe (e.g. “Green Fitchburg” is the mailing list for environmentally friendly suggestions or events)

Please contact Phil Grupe, Sustainability Specialist, at [phil.grupe@fitchburgwi.gov](mailto:phil.grupe@fitchburgwi.gov) or (608) 270-4259, if you have any questions, comments, and/or suggestions for future Green E-News topics.

